

Bearing Our Load

Text; Galatians 6:5 For each man will have to bear his own load.

Our text could be paraphrased to meet the wording required in our present day work world. If it were written today it would probably say that each fellow must carry his own weight, or each man must be able to cut the mustard or something similar to this. But to take this verse out of context and to state it as such it seems rather like it needs something additional to complete it. But what would we add? For each man will have to bear his own load or else. Or else what? Or should we state that each man must bear his own load so that such and such will come to pass. Perhaps. But I think we need to dig a little deeper and find out first why each man will have to bear his own load.

Have you ever watched two well matched football teams playing a game? In order for either team to move the ball they must work together as a well organized unit. Or how about a marching band performing intricate maneuvers. Each one must make the proper move or turn at the proper time, or what is the result? Chaos isn't it. We could give many other examples to illustrate this point but they all add up to the same thing. In order for any well organized group to perform well or efficiently they must all work together. This is no less true of our modern day working world. We can bear witness to this fact in our own local community. How many times in the past few months have we seen strikes that have hampered or crippled not only the industry involved but other companies that need or make use of it's products. Does this type of thing make for harmony or unity in industry? We know that it doesn't. There are pros and cons to be argued on both sides. Labor and management both need to look to themselves so that there may be harmony. We are not going to get involved in a discourse on the whys and wherefores of labor disputes. Nor are we going to become enmeshed in any one specific case in point. Let us just suffice it to say that when labor and management

get out of step with each other than neither one is bearing his own load. This is usually brought about because the one side forgets that there is another side. In other words labor, which is usually represented by a union, forgets that management has a point to offer too. Management on the other hand seems to forget that there is such a thing as labor. It's all a vicious circle. Speaking of unions reminds me of this story I read once. A city boy was visiting his cousin who lived in the country. They were walking through the pasture when the city boy heard a peculiar buzzing sound. He looked around to find out what it was. His country cousin grabbed him by the arm and hustled him away from there. Let's get out of here he shouted. It's a rattlesnake if you go near it, it will strike. Gosh said the city boy, do they have unions too? But we need unions as well as management. But the thing we need most of all is dedicated men and women on both sides who are willing and ready to bear their load and not try to place it upon someone else. Think of the possibilities involved here if each member of labor and management tried to work hand in hand. They would not only each increase their respective material benefits but the community and the nation as a whole would benefit. This is why each man must bear his own load regardless of which side he represents.

Next we find that each man must bear his own load in his personal life. Almost all individuals wear many faces during the course of a day. We may wear the face of a husband, a wife, mother, father, son, daughter, office clerk, housewife, bookkeeper, secretary, mail carrier, laborer and so on. But with each face we have a certain responsibility to bear which is ours alone to bear. For instance if we are a husband then it is our duty to provide and make a home for the wife. If we are a father then it is our duty to raise our children the best that we possibly can and to give them the advantages and opportunities for education and so on. But what is the normal thing in our society today? Just the opposite in many instances. Husbands are deserting their wives and families, wives are doing likewise, children

are leaving home as never before. Our home life is being and has been disrupted as never before. In many families both the husband and wife work with no thought whatsoever as to the children and what they will or may do in the absence of both parents. Then we rant and rave about juvenile delinquency. I even know of cases where a baby sitter is hired and the pay of the SITTER is or comes very close to the amount of the wife's pay. So what pray tell would be the advantage of this wife working? But you see that isn't the point. We are living in a society today that doesn't want to bear it's load. The object of the game is to let someone else share the load or bear as much of it as possible. Part of this is probably due to the fact that we have more giveaway programs in our country today than ever before. It has even been said of one of our political parties that they want to care for the people from the cradle to the grave. which is all well and good, but if this care amounts to giving handouts then it is not the proper care and concern that needs to be shown. Now don't get me wrong. I believe that there is a need for welfare care of some of our people, but you and I both know of many cases where people undeserving of help and assistance are getting it. I'm not trying to give a dissertation on politics or the welfare state, but the point I am making is simply this; Our country was founded by men and women who believed sincerely that each individual was responsible for taking care of himself. This meant providing for his family, caring for his own debts, looking after his property and trying to provide for his old age. Bearing his own load in other words. Now I'm still old fashioned enough to believe that this is just as true today in the year 1967 as it was in 1776. But unfortunately the general feeling we have is that if we can't get by on our own, then someone will take care of us. If we can't bear our load someone else can do it. What difference does it make? But you see we not only have the obligation of bearing our load but we have the moral responsibility to bear it. Each man should be trying to care for himself and his family to the best of his ability. Now this may require him to be thrifty, persevering, wise and

perhaps discipline himself to the point where he may have to forgo a few of life's small pleasures in order to meet this goal. But if we each try to bear our load in our personal lives it will not only benefit us, but it will benefit our friends and neighbors and strengthen all of us.

Then each man must bear his own load in his spiritual life. Too often in the past we have relegated religion to the Church alone. When we mention Church that means Sunday, but the other six days we don't even think of being a Christian. But we have come to realize a person is as much a Christian on Monday, Tuesday or Saturday as on Sunday. Our Christianity should go with us wherever we go every day. For years we have tried to keep the Church bottled up just for ourselves. We have only ministered to our own needs and forgotten about the world around us. But you say we have given to missions for years and haven't we even sent missionaries to convert the heathen? Sure we have, but we have only given them the scraps from the table and kept the food for ourselves. We have sent a few dedicated individuals to the remote areas of the world while the rest of us have sat back comfortably in our nice homes and forgotten the world. But finally, finally, we have come to realize that the Church belongs to everyone. We have started to help our brother the negro. We have not only mouthed phrases to him, but have gone into his neighborhood and have started to show him how he can lift himself out of his poverty and ignorance. But we have only scratched the surface. We need more people to get involved and to help wherever they can. We need to do this not because it is our Christian duty, but because it is part of bearing the load in our spiritual lives. We have also started to minister to our young people. By minister I don't mean preach because we have done this for years. But we are trying to reach them on their own level. In a recent survey in our Butler Church the main gripe our young people voiced was the fact that every meeting or get together the youth had, had to have a

religious service or something religious about it. This by the way was my Sunday school class that made this observation. A statement like this gives us reason to pause and consider doesn't it? I don't think we should forget about giving our youth religion, but we should give it to them in small enough doses so that they can digest it. Most of us have forgotten what it was like to be a teen-ager. Therefore we treat them as we do. We were trying to have our questions answered and we were trying to find our place where we fit in just as they are doing. I think the Church at this present time is trying to help the teen-agers find their niche and answer their problems and questions. I have noticed that here at St. Paul's the young ^{people} of the community are being shown movies during the week. This is a good thing but it's only a start. We should open the doors of all the Churches to the young people. Give them a place to come to and help to keep them off the streets. We should show them that the Church cares what happens to them, instead of locking the church doors after Sunday services and not opening them except for a meeting during the week. Some kids would be able to do their homework in the Church because their homelife is not conducive toward good studying. We should supply games and coke machines and records to give them healthful entertainment. There may be some of you here this morning who do not agree with me. This is your privilege. But before we pass this off as a wild scheme let us look at the facts wherein these ideas are based. Where did the emphasis lay years ago? Why in the Church wasn't it? Everything in the community revolved around the Church. Almost all of the local activities originated in the local Church. Now you may be thinking where do the adults come into this picture? We can serve as hosts and hostesses, as chaperones, or maybe just as a friend that these kids can come to and get help and advice from. There may not be too many kids here in the local Church as members, but there are plenty are in the neighborhood that need a little help and understanding. We cannot restrict this to just our own, but ^{WE MUST} include Catholics, Jews and also

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PITTSBURGH, PA.
REV. JOHN R. BUCHER, PASTOR
ESTHER W. HERWIG, ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR
GORDON SAVELLE, ACOLYTE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1967 15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
ORGAN PRELUDE - "MEDITATION" PACHE
HYMN MEDITATION - "DEAR LORD AND FATHER OF MANKIND"
*SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT
*INTROIT FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
M/ BOW DOWN THINE EAR, O LORD, HEAR ME.
C. O THOU, MY GOD, SAVE THY SERVANT THAT TRUSTETH
IN THEE.
M. BE MERCIFUL UNTO ME, O LORD.
C. FOR I CRY UNTO THEE DAILY.
*GLORIA PATRI
*COLLECT FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
HYMN #5 - "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"
SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
EPISTLE - GALATIANS 5:125 - 6:10
GOSPEL - MATTHEW 6:24-34
DOXOLOGY
*APOSTLES' CREED
ANTHEM - "BLESSED JESUS" BODYCOMBE
SILENT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE
OFFERING
OFFERTORY - "CHIYE SONG" GRAYSON
OFFERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
HYMN #195 - "COME UNTO ME, YE WEARY"
SERMON: "BEARING THE LOAD" TEXT: GALATIANS 6:5
MR. RALPH LINK, GUEST SPEAKER
SERMON PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
HYMN #267 - "MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS"
*BENEDICTION
*THREEFOLD AMEN
ORGAN POSTLUDE - "MARCHE JOYOUS" GRAYSON
(= - CONGREGATION STANDING)

TODAY - WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO WELCOME MR. RALPH LINK AT ST. PAUL'S. "RALPH" WILL OFFICIATE IN THE MORNING WORSHIP. REV. BUCHER IS ASSISTING IN THE PROGRAM OF THE YOUTH MINISTRY WEEKEND, AT LIVING WATERS CAMP.

WE ARE GLAD TO SEE OUR CHOIR BACK IN THEIR FAMILIAR PLACES THIS MORNING AND HOPE OTHERS WILL JOIN THEM.

THE MEMBERS OF THE JR. HIGH CLASS ARE ACTING AS USHERS THIS MORNING.

OUR ALTAR FLOWERS WERE PLACED IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE HUNNEHAGEN FAMILY, BY THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MR. THEODORE REINARD.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

8:00 P.M. - RALLY DAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING.
THERE IS A NEED FOR AN ASSISTANT ("HELPER") IN THE KINDERGARTEN DEPT. PLEASE CONSULT MRS. MILDRED ROHM.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

10:00 A.M. - PROJECT FOR THE PASSAVANT NURSING HOME.
ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN THIS SERVICE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

6:00 P.M. - THE GUILD SUPPER MEETING, WITH REV. AND MRS. MORRIS COOPER, AS GUEST SPEAKERS. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF THEIR LIFE WITH THE HOMES FOR CHILDREN AND THE AGED, AT DORSEYVILLE AND GREENVILLE. (MEN INVITED)

THE AUGUST BENEVOLENT EMPHASIS FOR THE JOHN MILTON SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, AMOUNTED TO \$25.66.

THE SEPTEMBER EMPHASIS IS FOR THE LIBRARY FUND OF OUR LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. LITERATURE ON TABLE.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

2:30 P.M. - FALL MEETING OF THE PITTSBURGH ASS'N., WILL MEET IN THE SPRING HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1620 RHINE ST., REV. HERMAN NAFTZINGER, PASTOR.
SUPPER RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 18TH.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET WITH YOU THIS MORNING. COPIES HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE SHUT-INS AND THE COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TO THE BOYS IN THE ARMED SERVICE.



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

September 3, 1967

Labor Sunday

Artificial light upon our work can serve as a pointer to him who comes as the world's Light to illumine our whole life. The words from the Gospel of John are part of a passage whose climactic declaration is: I am the resurrection and the life. It is the power of God's new life in Christ, even in the midst of death, that is a light upon our daily work. The beams of this light enable us to see our labor as a place where his transforming concern for darkened lives can bring new life—right where we work.

John 11:1-11

MINISTRY TO THE "WORLD OF WORK"

In the past half-century there have been great gains for labor: higher wages, shorter working hours, and increased job security. The church has had its part in helping to promote human dignity and interpret the relationship between faith and the world of work.

Today, the church's involvement with this world of work moves in two directions: within various occupations and professions, and across occupational and professional lines.

Here in the United States, we are related through the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to a wide variety of cooperative programs. The Detroit Industrial Mission, the Metropolitan Corporation Mission in Newark, N.J., and a specialized ministry in Sterling Forest, N.Y., represent a cross-section of these ministries.

Overseas, too, through the United Church Board for World Ministries we relate to a variety of industrial ministries. The Nishijin Labor Center, for instance, in the northwestern part of Kyoto, Japan, is seeking to show Christianity as a viable option to more than 20,000 workers who have heretofore thought of the Christian church as something only for the intelligentsia and the sophisticates.

Thus at home and abroad *Our Christian World Mission* seeks to direct the bright light of the Gospel upon the world of work.

UNITED CHURCH CHRIST SUNDAY BULLETIN

